male unemployment rates. The unemployment rates for illiterate is as low as 0.2 percent of the labour force rising to 1.2 percent for literates upto primary school and 3.3 percent for middle school. For educated labour (secondary education and above) the rate was 7.1 percent.

(c) and (d) In the budget for 2002-03 it was announced as part of expenditure management that, out of the surplus manpower of 42,200 in 36 Ministries/Departments where the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) completed its work nearly 12,200 posts were expected to be abolished by the end of March, 2002. The decision to limit fresh recruitment for 1 per cent of total civilian strength will continue to be implemented over the next four years. Around 23,901 posts have been identified for abolition so far by various Ministries/Departments and out of these around 12,898 posts have already been abolished.

(e) Eradication of poverty and unemployment remains high on the agenda of the government. Although ongoing economic reforms have led to a deceleration in the growth rate in the organized employment in the recent years, there has been significant improvement in the employment growth rates in the unorganized sectors particularly 'services'.

Reappointment of auditors

3318. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that company's auditors are re-appointed and continue to audit their accounts for 15-20 years leading to mal-practices; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to prevent the reappointment of such auditors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Auditors of a company are appointed by the shareholders, every year, at the annual general meeting, under Section 224 of the Companies Act, 1956. This Act, (which includes mandatory compliance of Accounting Standards) and the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 contain provisions to deal with, and punish, any mal-practices in this regard.